

MR. PETERSON: Good afternoon. I'm Trent Peterson from GCC Energy. And I had the dubious distinction of being one of the few people in the audience wearing a jacket and tie. I'll acknowledge that nearly any set of regulations or policies are going to become outdated over time and needs to be reviewed. There's room for good change. There's room for bad change. I think changes that are driven by ideologies instead of sound scientific and economic principles are disastrous. A few of the suggested changes are particularly problematic. Number 1. Timing of coal lease sales to be condition of market fluctuations. Coal mine resource planning, including the long-range capital plans and orderly development of reserves cannot be accommodated within the relatively short cycles of overall economic markets. Two. We've heard a lot about matching coal royalties to gas royalties. The current general royalty structure recognizes the vastly different cost structures between the two industries and should not be tinkered with. Number 3. This is a bid one. Increasing coal royalties to cover the cost of carbon emissions. It's a blatant ideological statement that greenhouse gases produced by coal are somehow different than greenhouse gases produced by any other source. If we must expect someone to pay for carbon emissions, it really has to be done at the demand end, instead -- of the equation, rather than the supply end. So, every one of us here that expects energy can pay our fair share or what we're contributing to the mess. Number 4. Leasing decisions based on export potential. This is really a social responsibility topic. U.S. coal mines are the safest, most efficient, and most environmentally sensitive coal mines in the world. Limiting export potential is a clear statement that we're not interested in the social welfare anywhere but in the U.S. It's an [indiscernible] at its worst. And if anything, is a good argument for increasing U.S. export potential. At the top of my list for good changes -- at least there really needs to be something done with leasing reform to streamline the leasing process and NEPA requirements. And as was said earlier, impose strict time limits to the stages of the application process. Right now the company I work for is looking at a, a [indiscernible] that's been in process for five and a half years. And now it's on hold for three more because of the coal moratorium. If it doesn't meet the exemption qualifications,

it's going to cost real [indiscernible] before the
Programmatic EIS is done. It looks like I'm out of time.